

Government Organization Act, 1970

pear, immediately after clause 1 on page 1 thereof, and substituting therefor the words "Department of Fisheries and the Environment" and similarly thereafter in the Bill and Schedules thereto wheresoever the words "Department of the Environment" appear; and, consequential thereupon, that the words "Minister of the Environment" be struck out wheresoever in the Bill and Schedules thereto the same appear and the words "Minister of Fisheries and the Environment" substituted therefor.

The Chairman: Order, please. The Chair has some reservations about the amendment. I have two reservations which relate to the procedural aspect. If the committee adopted this amendment, it would require the amendment of clauses of the bill that have already been dealt with by the committee. That is one aspect which comes immediately to mind. The other is not that important, but I will mention it. There is a reference with respect to amending short titles at page 560 of May's seventeenth edition. It reads:

The title can only be amended if the bill has been so altered—

In this particular case, we should read: "if the part has been so altered" because we are dealing with Part I.

—as to necessitate such an amendment; but any amendment to the title that may be necessary is made.

I think in this case the amendment is not necessary in the sense that May refers to it. He further states:

—an amendment...has been permitted to be made in the standing committee...

On that point, I also notice in clause 5(a), the minister would have authority with respect to the seacoast and inland fisheries. In my mind, unless hon. members on the government side want to argue it, I am prepared to accept the amendment with respect to clause 2. However, I have reservations as to whether we can now go as far as amending clauses which have already been adopted by the committee. I just throw out these suggestions. They might serve the purpose of the hon. member who moved the amendment. Subject to what hon. members have to say, I will accept that part of the amendment which reads:

That clause 2 of Bill C-207 be amended by striking out the words "Department of the Environment" where they first appear, immediately after clause 1 on page 1 thereof, and substituting therefor the words "Department of Fisheries and the Environment".

I suggest to the hon. member that if this part of the amendment serves his purpose it would be acceptable to the Chair at this point, subject to what other hon. members may have to say.

Mr. McGrath: May I just point out that Your Honour's qualification of the amendment is acceptable. I will be pleased to move it in that form.

Mr. Crouse: I rise to speak briefly in support of the amendment.

The Chairman: Order, please. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member. Before he speaks to the substance of the amendment, other hon. members should have the opportunity of speaking to the procedural point. If no member wishes to do so, the Chair is prepared to accept

[Mr. McGrath.]

the amendment, as amended, with the consent of the hon. member for St. John's East.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: The amendment is accepted.

Mr. Crouse: I rise to speak briefly in support of the amendment moved by my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's East. As the committee is aware, during previous discussions on this bill dealing with clause 4, I moved an amendment to appoint a deputy minister of fisheries who would be entirely responsible for fisheries matters. That amendment was overruled by the committee.

I share the concern of the hon. member for St. John's East that the department of fisheries will be swallowed up by the new department of the environment, with a consequent loss of identity to this important primary industry in so far as Canada is concerned. If it were not for the fisheries, Canada may never have been discovered. It was the prolific supplies of fish, particularly codfish, off the Atlantic coast of Canada which encouraged the French, English and many other nationals to come to this country to pursue the fishing industry. If it had not been for the prolific cod fishery off eastern Canada, we would never have known about such romantic ships as the *Gertrude L. Thibault*, skippered by Captain Ben Pine, or the *Bluenose* captained by Captain Angus Walters, or the famous International Schooner races held off the coast near Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Perhaps, we would not now have a replica of the famous sailing ship *Bluenose* on the back of our ten cent piece.

An hon. Member: Or the Newfoundland members of Parliament.

Mr. Crouse: Someone has suggested that we may not have the Newfoundland members of Parliament. That would be a tragedy. There is a great deal of tradition, romance and history associated with the department of fisheries. The federal government has jurisdiction over this resource under the British North America Act. The department has been known as the Department of Fisheries and Forestry and the department of fisheries and marine since confederation. I express genuine concern about its demise.

By phasing out this department, some of our problems may not be thoroughly investigated by a minister known only as the minister of the environment. By phasing out the department of fisheries and no longer having a minister of fisheries by that name, I believe we will lose a certain amount of advertising value which is essential to our fishing industry. I say this because this industry is now going through very troubled times. As hon. members are aware, this industry is suffering from incidents of mercury poisoning which have been found in the larger species of fish, mainly tuna and swordfish. We are also suffering from a decline in fish stocks which has resulted in a serious problem for the industry, particularly in Nova Scotia. Important decisions must soon be made on behalf of our fishing industry at an international conference to be held sometime in 1972. We need a representa-